

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Maryland Chapter

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Robert Nikolay, Chairman
Certificate of Need Task Force
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

RE: Health Care Facilities-Certificate of Need-Obstetrical Medical Services

Dear Chairman:

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The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics supports the existing certificate of need process, especially as it relates for the designation of beds for obstetrics. Regulations that have been developed for the OB CON process are perceived to have value in the state of Maryland and indeed need to be followed and observed as written.

Our concern is the quality of services and pediatric support services needed for any obstetrical unit. With present excess capacity, any development of new beds is clearly going to increase the cost of delivering obstetrical services in Maryland. Diluting the number of deliveries over an increased number of institutions may have an effect on the quality of care delivered to patients.

Sincerely,

Richard Lichenstein, MD
President